

GREECE



1874 - 50 LEPTA - OBVERSE

GREECE, KINGDOM of
PARIS MINT

50 LEPTA 18MM .835 FINE 2.5 GRAMS

| | | |
|------|-----------|------|
| 1868 | 60 | rare |
| 1874 | 4,500,633 | |

▲OV: Head of George I, facing left (bee) greek inscription ΓΕΩΡΓΙΟΣ Α΄ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΤΩΝ ΕΛΛΗΝΩΝ (anchor) (George I King of the Greeks) around / BAPPE under bust.

▼RV: Crown / greek denomination 50 ΛΕΠΤΑ (50 lepta) / DATE / A (mintmark), greek inscription ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΝ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ (Kingdom of Greece) around above.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: A = PARIS

DIRECTOR: (bee) = Renouard deBussiere 1860-79

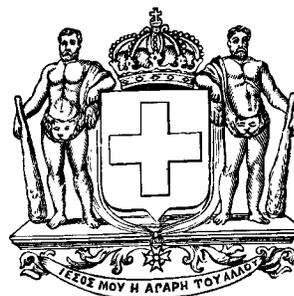
ENGRAVER: BAPPE (anchor) = Albert-Desire Barre 1855-78

REFERENCE: Y-6, D-55, KM-6.2

Modern Greek Coins by Jean-Paul Divo, Zurich 1969.

POPULATION: Greece - 1892 - 2,187,208 with capital Athens with 114,335 inhabitants.

FOOTNOTE: Currency of Greece - 100 lepta = 1 drachme



Arms of the Greek Kingdom

FOOTNOTE: King George I, was born Prince William of Denmark at Copenhagen December 24, 1845, the second son of King Christian IX of Denmark of the House of Holstein - Sonderburg - Glucksburg, and brother of Queen Alexandra of Great Britain. He served for some time in the Danish Navy. In 1829 Greece, gained independence from Turkey, choosing for its King, Prince Otto of Bavaria. The Revolution of 1862 drove King Otto of Greece from the throne. By an overwhelming vote of the Greek people, Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh (Queen Victoria's second son) was elected King, but on political grounds he was forced to decline, and in 1863 on March 30th at the age of 18, the Danish Prince William of Schleswig-Holstein, who with the concurrence of his own family and the consent of the Great Powers, was elected King of the Hellenes, with the title of George I. He was married at Saint Petersburg to Olga, a niece of the Russian Czar, daughter of Grand Duke Constantine, October 27, 1867, and had five sons and one daughter. His conduct as a constitutional monarch has always been correct and regular, and he has won the popular sympathies by the efforts he has made on behalf of the expansion of Greek Nationality. His children are all bred up in the Greek faith. The Crown Prince is Constantine, Duke of Sparta, born 2nd August 1868. The Greeks accorded him an enthusiastic welcome, and he ruled in strict accordance with constitutional principles, adopting as his motto 'My Strength is the Love of My People'. In 1867 Greece became part of the Latin Monetary Union with the proviso that the money should be struck at the Paris Mint. The pieces were engraved by Albert Desire Barre, Chief Engraver of the Paris Mint with his name spelled in Greek BAPPE under the bust of King. *New Cabinet Cyclopaedia, Phila., 1896 & New International Encyclopedia, 1910.*

FOOTNOTE: The inscription and denominations of the Greek coinage are shown in the Greek alphabet. The coinage of the Island of Crete also use the Greek letters.



FOOTNOTE: By approval of the Latin Monetary Union Convention in 1908 the fractional coins of Greece were ordered retired within four months (2 and 1 franc, 50 and 20 centimes pieces). This left the currency of the country; inconvertible paper.



George I - King of Greece

FOOTNOTE: In personal appearance King George, of Greece, is tall and slight, with bright, piercing, blue eyes, active and energetic in movement, kind and courteous in manner, a tireless worker, deeply interested in the welfare of his subjects; every morning at seven o'clock finds him at his desk reading documents, signing state papers and receiving the reports of his ministers. In the afternoon he visits schools, hospitals, barracks and prisons, alert to every opportunity to improve the condition of his subjects. The King has an allowance of \$200,000 per annum, one-half of which comes from the National revenue, and one-half of which is voted in sums of \$20,000 each by the five Great Powers, England, France, Germany, Austria and Russia. Vast as this income seems it is small in comparison with that of other monarchs and only by the utmost care can it be made to meet the expenses of the Royal Household. Court life at Athens is very pleasant, and no European Court is more popular or more frequented by Royal families than is the Court at Athens. The King neither visits nor invites any but foreigners, as the selection of personal friends from among his own subjects would only arouse the jealousy of those not chosen. Despite their many good qualities the Greeks are not willing that the King should enjoy social intercourse with his own people. So anxious is the King to meet the wishes of his people that he yields to them in matters not involving principle. It is said that the Queen once gave a children's ball at the palace, where upon the public questioned the propriety of balls for infant princes and criticized royal extravaganzas. Children's balls were discontinued as a result. *Around the World, Lida Brooks Miller, Chicago, 1897.*

FOOTNOTE: The modern city of Athens has been built since 1835. The Kings palace is a huge, square, plastered edifice, that would not be tolerated in San Francisco or Melbourne as a public building. All modern Greece (c.1888) is in a state of dilapidation. There are no roads, and the products of the country and imported goods are carried on the backs of mules and men. A few miles of railroad have been constructed to nearer points of interest, but the service is not very good. About two million Greeks live a sickly life in the narrow mountain valleys and around the undrained malarial marshes of the scanty lowlands. Two millions more are scattered about the Levant, generally engaged in trade and commerce, for which they exhibit great aptitude. They talk politics very bravely in the coffee-houses, but are not very dangerous, except as highwaymen. The people are very superstitious and all over the land they will destroy the precious remains of antiquity for material to build huge ugly churches, without a trace of architectural beauty, ten times larger than needed. *In a Winding Journey Around the World, O.W.Wight, Detroit 1888.*



1874 - 50 LEPTA - REVERSE

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|----------------------------------|------|-----------|-----------|
| GREECE, KINGDOM of PARIS MINT | | | |
| 50 LEPTA | 18MM | .835 FINE | 2.5 GRAMS |

1883 600,000

▲OV: Head of George I, facing left (cornucopia) greek inscription ΓΕΩΡΓΙΟΣ Α! ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΤΩΝ ΕΛΛΗΩΝ (fasces) (George I King of the Greeks) around / BAPPE under bust.

▼RV: Crown / greek denomination 50 ΛΕΠΤΑ (50 lepta) / 1883 / A (mintmark), greek inscription ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΝ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ (Kingdom of Greece) around above.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: A = PARIS

DIRECTOR: (cornucopia) = Jean-Louis Ruau 1879-91

ENGRAVER: (fasces) = Jean LaGrange 1880-96

DESIGNER: BAPPE = Albert-Desire Barre 1855-78

REFERENCE: Y-6, D-55, KM-6.2

POPULATION: Greece - 1896 - 2,433,806 with capital Athens with 111,486 inhabitants.

FOOTNOTE: King George I, had all but completed the 50th year of his reign and was about to celebrate his Jubilee by abdicating the throne in favor of the Crown Prince Constantine, when he was shot down by a half-crazed Greek, named Schinas at Salonika on March 18, 1913. As the brother-in-law of Edward VII of England, and of Alexander III of Russia, the uncle of Czar Nicolas II, and friend of Francis Joseph, he had the ear of those upon which decisions European politics depended. The violent death was thus fraught with momentous consequences for Greece and for Europe. Greece lost a sagacious Sovereign. *Encyclopedia Britannica, 11th Edition - New Volumes, 1922.*